

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7775

BILL NUMBER: HB 2031

DATE PREPARED: Jan 24, 2001

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Child Fatality Review Teams.

FISCAL ANALYST: Kathy Norris

PHONE NUMBER: 234-1360

FUNDS AFFECTED: X

**GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill allows for the establishment of a nine-member Child Fatality Review Team on a county or regional basis to review the sudden, unexpected, or unexplained death of a child. The bill also provides for the establishment of a 12-member State Child Fatality Review Team with the State Health Commissioner serving as chairperson. The bill provides that if a coroner requests an autopsy to review the sudden, unexpected, or unexplained death of a child, the autopsy shall be performed by a physician who is certified by the American Board of Pathology. It further provides for an appropriation of \$40,000 from the State General Fund for the period beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2003, for training the State Child Fatality Review Team and the county and regional Child Fatality Review Teams.

Effective Date: July 1, 2001.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill provides a biennial appropriation of \$40,000 for training for local and state Child Fatality Review Team members. The Department of Health estimates that additional funding would be necessary to adequately perform the requirements of the bill.

This bill requires the establishment of a State Child Fatality Review Team. The State Review Team is made up of 12 members with the Commissioner of the State Department of Health or his designee as the chairperson. Members of the Team that are not state employees are entitled to receive the minimum salary per diem of \$50 and reimbursement for travel expenses. The Team meets at the call of the chairman. If the Team meets quarterly, the member's travel and per diem costs are estimated to be \$2,500. These costs can be absorbed within the existing Department budget.

The Department is required to provide staff support for the State Review Team. The Department estimates that two additional staff persons will be needed to staff the State Review Team as well as to develop model child fatality review procedures, review state trends and issues surrounding the deaths of children, issue an annual report, and perform other duties outlined in the bill. The total cost of salaries and benefits for the new positions is estimated to be \$68,971 in FY 2002 and \$71,229 in FY 2003. This estimate is based on

information previously received from the Department and updated to include the assumption of a January 4% pay plan increase.

Additional annual costs of \$44,150 for staff travel, copying and printing, and contractual and training services are included in the total estimate. The Department is required to provide training in a number of areas to the State and Local Child Fatality Review Teams. This bill provides a \$40,000 biennial appropriation from the state General Fund for the training provisions of the bill.

The funds and resources required above could be supplied through a variety of sources, including the following: (1) Existing staff and resources not currently being used to capacity; (2) Existing staff and resources currently being used in another program; (3) Authorized, but vacant, staff positions, including those positions that would need to be reclassified; (4) Funds that, otherwise, would be reverted; or (5) New appropriations. As of January 24, 2001, the staffing table shows that the Department has 106 full-time vacancies. The Department of Health reverted \$993,931 to the State General Fund at the end of FY 2000. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill will depend upon legislative and administrative actions.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: This bill allows for the formation of nine-member Child Fatality Review Teams on a county or regional basis. In order to establish a county or regional Review Team, the legislative body of each participating county must cast a majority of votes in favor of establishing the Review Team. If a Review Team is established, the legislative bodies must also adopt an ordinance for the appointment and reappointment of the members of the Team.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: State Department of Health, Family and Social Services, Division of Family and Children.

Local Agencies Affected: County Coroners, local emergency service and law enforcement personnel.

Information Sources: Norma Selby, State Department of Health, 233-7573.